

# Supply Chest

January 13, 2006

Ready - Resourceful - Responsive!

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## Code 200 helps ships enjoy Army-Navy weekend in Philly

By Rich Sweeney, FISC Norfolk Det. Phila.

What do FISC Norfolk and the Army-Navy football game have in common? Actually, the FISC collaboration between Code 400's Supply Management Department, Mid-Atlantic (FISC SMD, MA), Philadelphia Division and the Code 200 Contracting Department, working together to support two of the Navy's DDG's visiting Philadelphia for a liberty stop at Penn's Landing last month.

Norfolk-based *USS McFaul* (DDG 74) and Mayport-based *USS The Sullivans* (DDG 68) were visiting Philadelphia for the annual rivalry game. Making the site visit to the FISC Code 403, Phila. Division was Darva Gruber from FISC Norfolk Code 200. She ensured a knowledgeable and capable husbanding agent was awarded the contract to assist the efforts of both ship's supply officers.



Philadelphia Code 403 Division Director Rich Sweeney (left), *USS McFaul* Commanding Officer Cmdr. Sean M. Connors (center) and Code 200's Darva Gruber.

Gruber, a contract specialist, reviewed the logistical requirements of both ships and placed a solicitation for husbanding support, making an award to an agent to arrange most of the services required for the ship's five-

day visit. FISC SMD, MA, Phila. Division Director Rich Sweeney performs much of the preliminary contacts with the visiting ships, coordinating additional support and local

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## Holiday party a hit aboard Spirit of Norfolk



The dance floor was full on the first deck of the *Spirit of Norfolk* Dec. 16. The FISC Norfolk Holiday Party was a sellout - 240 Sailors and civilian employees enjoyed a delicious buffet, entertainment, dancing, and more than 30 prizes for some lucky winners. See pages 4-5 for more photos.

## Greetings from Afghanistan...finally

*Editor's note: This is the latest in a series of dispatches from Lt. Bob James, who was the FISC Norfolk Logistics Support Officer. He is currently forward-deployed to Afghanistan, and has been keeping us up-to-date on his adventures.*

We completed our Army training on December 17 which finally validated us for duty in a combat zone. Just prior to completion, I was informed that as a result of some personnel issues, I was to be re-assigned from the team heading to Qalat, to a Garrison Support team heading to Mazar-I-Sharif (north of Kabul, and just south of the Uzbekistan border). Mazar is at the base of a mountain, only 1200ft above sea-level (I say only since Kabul is at 5700ft), and from my research have discovered it is in an area that gets quite a bit of rainfall, and is one of the greener areas

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## From the CNO ... Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance

For 20 years our great nation has honored the tremendous accomplishments and sacrifices of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's observance will be held on January 16, 2006. All hands are strongly encouraged to educate themselves and commands on the principles for which Dr. King stood and how they contribute to navy diversity and our ability to accomplish our assigned missions.

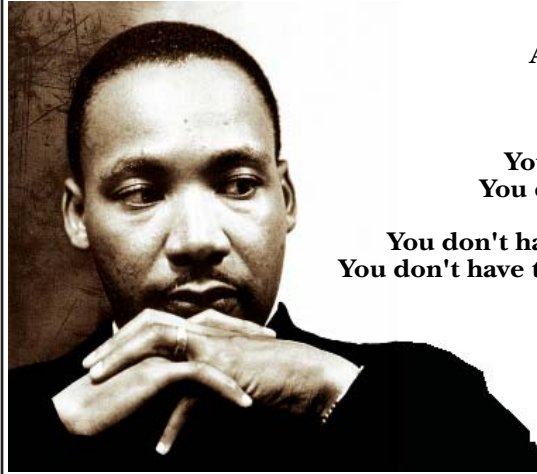
The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and vision to America. It is a day of intercultural cooperation,

where we commemorate the timeless values he taught us, such as courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility, and service. The theme for the observance is "in the spirit of unity and service. Remember! Celebrate! Act!" it is an opportunity for all of us to learn and understand the values for which Dr. King lived and died.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Dr. King's wife, describes the meaning of the Martin Luther King holiday: "We commemorate Dr. King's inspiring words, because his voice and his vision filled a great void in our nation, and

### Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

**"IN THE SPIRIT OF UNITY AND SERVICE.  
REMEMBER! CELEBRATE! ACT!"**



**Remember! Celebrate! Act!  
A Day On... Not A Day Off**

**If you want to be important—wonderful.  
If you want to be recognized—wonderful.  
If you want to be great—wonderful.  
But recognize that he who is greatest among you  
shall be your servant.**

**That's a new definition of greatness.  
And this morning, the thing that I like about it:  
by giving that definition of greatness,  
it means that everybody can be great,  
because everybody can serve.**

**You don't have to have a college degree to serve.  
You don't have to make your subject and your verb  
agree to serve.**

**You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve.  
You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve.**

**You don't have to know the second theory of  
thermodynamics in physics to serve.**

**You only need a heart full of grace,  
a soul generated by love.  
And you can be that servant.**

*Excerpted from Dr. Martin Luther King's speech, the "Drum Major Instinct"*

answered our collective longing to become a country that truly lived by its noblest principles. Yet, Dr. King knew that it wasn't enough just to talk the talk, that he had to walk the walk for his words to be credible. And so we commemorate on this holiday the man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice every day, the man who braved threats and jail and beatings and who ultimately paid the highest price to make democracy a reality for all Americans."

#### **Philadelphia from page 1**

contacts while offering recommendations to the respective supply officers based on experiences and lessons learned from previous ship visits there.

There is a lot of work and preparation to be set and continuous communications between the FISC Phila. Department, FISC Norfolk Code 200 Contracting and the supply officers is paramount to ensure the liberty is as successful and enjoyable to the visiting ship's crew as possible.

## Supply Chest

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## BRAC Corner - How does RIF work?

### How does RIF work?

When RIF becomes necessary, employees compete for retention based on several factors established by law and regulation. These factors include tenure, veterans' preference, and service computation date (SCD). Together, these factors determine each employee's RIF retention standing.

**Tenure** – Employee tenure is based on appointment type. Career employees are usually retained over other employees in lower tenure groups who occupy similar positions. Career conditional employees are retained over those serving under term or temporary appointments.

**Veterans' preference** – Veterans' preference is based on the employee's prior military service. Spouses and mothers of disabled or deceased veterans also may have veterans' preference rights. Employees with veterans' preference are usually retained over those without preference if they're in the same tenure group for RIF competitive purposes. Your installation is required to define these groups prior to conducting a RIF.

(Note: Not all retired military members have veterans' preference for RIF purposes. If you're retired from active duty, check with your HRO to determine your preference eligibility for RIF.)

**Service Computation Date (SCD)** – Your SCD is based on a combination of your creditable federal civilian service, creditable military service, and additional service time

credited as a direct result of your recent performance ratings.

For specific information concerning your retention standing and the status of your position, contact your HRO. If you eventually become involved in a RIF, your HRO will likely schedule individual or group counseling sessions to explain the process and give you important information concerning your rights and benefits, job placement and separation incentive programs, and other available transition assistance.

Once you have a reasonable expectation that you will be directly affected by BRAC, you should start preparing yourself for the eventual realignment or closure. Here are a few tips to get you started:

### Get informed and stay informed

Your supporting HRO will be prepared to answer many of your questions and refer you to authoritative sources for answers to others. You can also visit [www.cpms.osd.mil/bractransition/](http://www.cpms.osd.mil/bractransition/) for links to current information or transition assistance programs and benefits, answers to frequently asked questions, and other online resources.

### Develop a personal transition plan

If your top priority is continuing your federal career, explore the available job referral, retraining, and outplacement assistance programs. Make yourself a checklist of the eligibility requirements and determine if there's anything you need to do to fill in all of the squares. Update your resume and make several copies so you'll be ready to

enroll in government-sponsored placement programs as soon as possible and to apply for other job opportunities on your own initiative.

If you think you might prefer to separate voluntarily rather than find another federal job, learn about the various types of retirement benefits and separation incentive programs. It's important for you and your family to understand how you would fare financially, and it may even prompt you to reconsider your employment options.

### Keep the local lines of communication open

Your supervisor or other management officials in your organization should be able to keep you up to date on the status of your job. Your supporting HRO is the nearest source of information about RIF procedures, employee benefits and entitlements, and transition assistance programs.

### Keep your family members informed and include them in the planning process

BRAC also affects those who are closest to you, and the decisions you make concerning your future affect them as well. Keep them current on all information pertaining to your job, and make sure they are involved whenever you need to make important decisions.

### Get started now

The responsibility of your future ultimately belongs to you. The sooner you begin planning, the smoother your transition will be.

## NAVSUP recruiting second wave of Lean 6 Sigma black belts

We are seeking highly motivated individuals for our second wave of Black Belts, which will be selected beginning in 2006. The selection will be done under a competitive GS-12 and/or GS-13 open continuous register issued by your Human Resource Service Center (HRSC).

If you are interested in joining this highly motivated team of skilled colleagues, it is imperative that you submit your updated RESUMIX for the GS-343 series to your HRSC as soon as possible to ensure that your application is in place before any personnel actions. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact your local Human Resource Office. Senior management at your activity will select Wave II Black Belts.

Our Transformation Phase II is a continuing process. Phase II Products and Services identify those products and services that best meet our customers' needs through the most effective and efficient logistics delivery system possible. Lean Six Sigma, as the enabler of our Transformation products and services, gives us the

ability to generate process improvements in the most comprehensive, measurable, and consistent way.

We must lower our cost of doing business and create a lasting infrastructure built on efficient, data-driven processes. Lean Six Sigma is the tool to refine our business processes: it is not just something else that we do; it will be something that we do every day. As we take these next steps, Lean Six Sigma is the approach we are using, and you are key to successful implementation.

Selection as a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt is an opportunity to make a difference in our organization. I encourage you to consider applying for the Black Belt program. More information on Lean Six Sigma can be found on MyNAVSUP. Together we can shape the future of NAVSUP!

D. H. STONE  
Rear Admiral, SC, USN

## ***FISC Norfolk Holiday Party aboard the Spirit of Norfolk***

*Guests began lining-up early, anxious to climb aboard the Spirit of Norfolk. This was the second year the FISC Norfolk Holiday Party was held aboard the ship. For the 2004 party, the second deck was filled by the FISC Norfolk party. The 2005 FISC Norfolk party sold out the larger first deck. Perhaps 2006 will be the year that FISC Norfolk takes-over the whole ship.*



*FISC Norfolk Code 200 Director Capt. Asa Page became part of the entertainment when the Spirit of Norfolk crew took the stage. They performed two shows for the 240 guests during the three-hour cruise on the Elizabeth River.*

*Some of the guests at the FISC Norfolk Holiday Party aboard the Spirit of Norfolk enjoy some pre-dinner entertainment.*





## **FISC Norfolk Holiday Party aboard the Spirit of Norfolk**

*There was plenty of food for everyone at the buffet aboard the Spirit of Norfolk. Guests enjoyed a selection of ham, turkey, several seafood selections, pasta, salads and vegetables.*



*Everyone cleared the dance floor so they could stand back and watch when Linda Stark stepped out to show them how it's done.*



*Ronny Dixon won one of 35 prizes handed-out at the party.*



*Couples enjoyed one last slow dance prior to docking at Norfolk's Waterside.*



# Winter sworn in as SECNAV, delivers first message to the fleet

Dr. Donald C. Winter was sworn in as the 74th Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) during a ceremony at the Pentagon Jan. 3.

Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting), the Honorable Gordon England administered the oath.

In his first message as SECNAV, Winter outlined his five priorities:

- People
- The Global War on Terror
- Shipbuilding
- 2005 QDR Implementation
- BRAC Implementation

Winter also praised the Navy and Marine Corps team and expressed his pride in serving as secretary.

The following is the full text of the secretary's message:

*Today, I was sworn in as your 74th Secretary of the Navy. At a time when we find ourselves at war, with Marines and Sailors in "harm's way" in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is a challenge that I accept with a keen awareness of the solemn responsibilities of this office.*

*In the wake of Sept. 11, 2001, President Bush declared, "the best defense against terrorism is a strong offensive against terrorists." The Navy/Marine Corps team is engaged in an aggressive campaign to defeat terrorist enemies not only in Iraq and Afghanistan, but globally. Protecting America against threats will remain our primary mission, a task that will require the service of warfighters who will never lose focus on the drive to victory.*

*The world has seen momentous changes in recent decades, and the Navy and Marine Corps must adapt to changing conditions. Throughout history, nations have been*



The Honorable, Dr. Donald C. Winter takes the oath of office as the 74th Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) in a ceremony held in the SECNAV's office at the Pentagon. Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting), the Honorable, Gordon England, left, administered the oath accompanied by Secretary Winter's wife Linda. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Journalist Craig P. Strawser

*surprised by threats that emerged without adequate warning. Democracies, in particular, are reluctant to acknowledge the existence of threats. But all of human history shows that weakness invites aggression and that strength deters war. We must remain prepared, strong and ready to meet the challenges of the future.*

*In my confirmation hearings before Congress this past October, I mentioned five priorities: People, The Global War on Terror, Shipbuilding, 2005 QDR Implementation and BRAC Implementation.*

*I will have much to say about all of these items in the months ahead. Today, I will only*

*mention one: People our most valuable asset. Since the early days of the republic, Americans have relied on a strong Navy and Marine Corps team to defend them against her enemies. Nothing can play so decisive a role as well-trained, highly motivated Sailors and Marines who believe in their mission. You should feel honor - honor in knowing that today, during this time of war, the American people turn to you to keep our country safe. You have chosen a noble profession, and you join a long honored tradition as guardians of our liberty, and defenders of a great nation. I am honored to serve you as your secretary.*

## Lt. James from page 1

in the country. Mazar is also the site of one of the first US retaliatory strikes conducted following 9-11, which began our official involvement in Afghanistan, and not far from where Operation Anaconda took place (the last offensive conducted by the Taliban).

Our ready-to-load date was finally set for the 28th, and we were lucky enough to get eight days of leave for Christmas before departing. As you can imagine, the leave was fantastic and being able to spend Christmas with my wife and 5-year-old son was a real bonus. I returned on the evening of the 26th, then spent pretty much all of the 27th packing, re-packing, then re-packing yet again, since we were informed that all our luggage would not fit in the plane (a 757), and as a result everyone had to dedicate one seabag full of gear to be left behind, so we were left to prioritize what we

"really" didn't need, (the Army reps told us they would be shipping them directly to Kabul, and should arrive in country any where from 48 hours to 6 months later).

We left Camp Atterbury for the Indianapolis airport at midnight, loaded all our luggage onto the plane, and departed at 6:40 a.m. We had stop-overs in Ireland, Incirlik AFB, Turkey and then finally landed at the Manas AFB in Kyrgyzstan (former Soviet Republic on the Chinese border), 22 hours later (tax free zone...NICE). I ended up in a two-man B-Hut (the Ritz compared to open-bay barracks at Atterbury), and discovered, the Air Force has done a great job providing many quality-of-life services. There is an Internet Café, providing phone and internet capabilities (prices are extremely reasonable...0.19 cents a minute to call the US), a

*continued on page 7*

## DDNV sends Christmas trees to Bahrain



Members of DDNV's 10 percent work crew take a break between crates. They used four crates to send 107 live Christmas trees to Bahrain for further distribution to Sailors and Marines throughout Southwest Asia to brighten up their holiday season. Pictured left to right are James Smith, Rufus Donely, Michael Reed, David Glunt, Daniel Bradshaw, Linwood Elliott, and Michael Riddick. Not pictured is James Underwood.

### Lt. James from Page 6

a recreation facility called Pete's Place offering pizza, pool tables etc, a base exchange (BX) which was surprisingly well stocked and the mess tent that is open pretty much 24-7.

After two days in Manas we caught a C-130 for the three hour flight to Kabul. Upon arrival at the airfield, I was amazed the way the mood of the group changed. Everyone became extremely serious as we realized after all these weeks of training we had finally arrived in a combat zone. Before departing the airfield to Camp Phoenix, everyone was temporarily issued ammunition for our weapons, and provided a quick ROE (rules of engagement) brief in the event we encountered enemy resistance during the 10 minute bus ride to the base. At that stage I couldn't help but feel the enormity of the situation I was in, had to admit my adrenalin was pumping during

the entire trip. You literally could hear a pin drop during the entire ride.

Afghanistan has been recognized as one of the five poorest countries in the world (the average income is only \$375 a year), and during the bus ride it was pretty apparent (will try and provide pictures in future updates, since I have yet to leave the wire since arriving at Phoenix). I am currently living in a 10 man B-Hut, which after some cleaning and situating our stuff has become livable. Since only half of our team has arrived (the other half has not been able to land here yet since it has been snowing for the last two days), we haven't started our 7 days of country indoctrination required before our departure to Mazar.

The base is mostly B-Huts (there is no more tent living), and has many comforts of home. There is a decent PX, laundry service, a Subway, Dairy Queen, Pizza Place, barber shop, and a fairly large gym, of which we have been taking advantage of since we were informed

many of these won't be available down range.

Currently there are several countries represented here at Camp Phoenix, including: Romania, Hungary, Mongolia, French, UK, and Italy. The predominant mission lately have been conducting presence CONOPS, convoy operations throughout Kabul with the objective of showing the flag.

Our arrival here has created quite a buzz, as you can imagine, and all the Army personnel I speak to are extremely excited about our arrival. I have had two people approach me and ask if I were to be stationed here in Kabul, since we have been designated as their relief. Not much more to report. Hope everyone there had a happy and safe holiday.

I will send another update upon arrival at Mazar.

Lt. Bob James



## Bravo Zulu



*FISC Norfolk Commanding Officer Capt. Tim Ross congratulates SK1 Ronda Tabb-Walker after she was frocked to her present rank.*



*FISC Norfolk Commanding Officer Capt. Tim Ross congratulates SK1 Jonathan Dorsey after he was frocked to his present rank.*



*FISC Norfolk Commanding Officer Capt. Tim Ross congratulates SK1 Shalanna Fridia after she was frocked to her present rank.*



*FISC Norfolk Commanding Officer Capt. Tim Ross congratulates SK1 Sheratha Colbert after she was frocked to her present rank.*



*FISC Norfolk Commanding Officer Capt. Tim Ross congratulates MM1(SW) Eddie Flowers, Navy Food Management Team, after presenting him with a Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal (gold star in lieu of second award). Flowers transferred to the Fleet Reserve after 20 years of service.*



*PCCM(SW/AW) Sheila Wooden congratulates PC2(SW) William Whiteman after he reenlisted for five years at the FISC Norfolk Regional Navy Mail Center.*

## Bravo Zulu



## DoD to restrict cell phone use on military bases

Defense Department installations have begun implementing new cell phone restrictions for drivers on military bases.

The new regulation, published in the Federal Register in April 2005, states that anyone driving a motor vehicle on a DoD installation cannot use a cell phone unless the vehicle is safely parked or the driver is using a hands-free device. Naval Station Norfolk has already implemented the new restrictions.

The law enforcement policy offices for each military department are putting together policies and procedures for the implementation and enforcement of the restrictions.

This regulation was developed based on information from the



National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which studied driving distractions as the cause of motor vehicle accidents. The study found that cell phone use is the fastest growing and most visible distraction that leads to accidents.

The DoD regulation follows suit with many regulations that states and cities have already imposed. Currently only Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and the District of Columbia ban hand-held cell phones for drivers, but many cities have imposed their own rules, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association.

This cell phone regulation will increase traffic safety on installations, but more importantly, it will encourage safe driving habits.